

The Opioid Patient Education Program

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INTRODUCTION

The term “opioid” refers to illegal substances like heroin and illicit fentanyl and other synthetic drugs as well as legal prescription medications used to treat moderate to severe pain.

Since 2007, the number of Ohioans dying due to unintentional drug overdose has been on the rise.¹

- Number one cause of injury-related death

A number of initiatives are underway that aim to reduce the number of intentional drug overdoses and combat inappropriate prescribing.¹

- OARRS
- Prescribing Guidelines
- Project DAWN

Since 2012, the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed to patients has gone down, as can be seen in Figure 1.

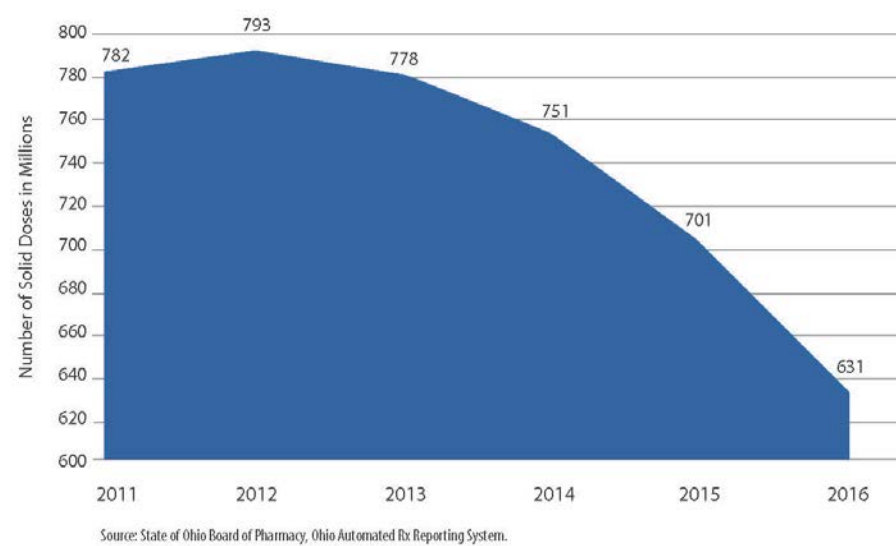


Figure 1: Number of Non-Liquid Opioid Doses Dispensed to Ohio Patients 2011-2016

Abuse of prescription opioids is a risk factor for use of heroin and fentanyl. ² (CDC)

Work continues to be done to ensure patients get the medications they need while limiting the number of prescription medications available for misuse and abuse.

Pharmacists positive impact in medication therapy management programs is well documented.

AIM

To assess a model for enhancing the involvement of community pharmacists in helping patients use opioid pain medications safely.

METHODS

The Opioid Patient Education Program (OPEP) was developed for pharmacist use when dispensing opioid pain medications

OPEP includes:

- written materials to be provided to the patient
- a checklist of points to be covered by the pharmacist in consultation with the patient
- telephone follow-up call 14 days after the medication is dispensed

The purpose of OPEP is to educate patients on safe use, storage, and disposal of opioid medications. OPEP was piloted in Kroger Pharmacies in five cities in Southeast Ohio from March 2017 – September 2017.

Evaluation project data was collected in 2 ways:

- Written surveys completed before and after the project
 - Surveys took approximately 30 minutes to complete
 - Pre-survey mailed to participating pharmacists and collected
 - Post-survey collected from participating pharmacists during focus group discussions
- Focus group discussions conducted after the conclusion of the pilot program
 - Conducted with participating pharmacists for one hour at their store locations

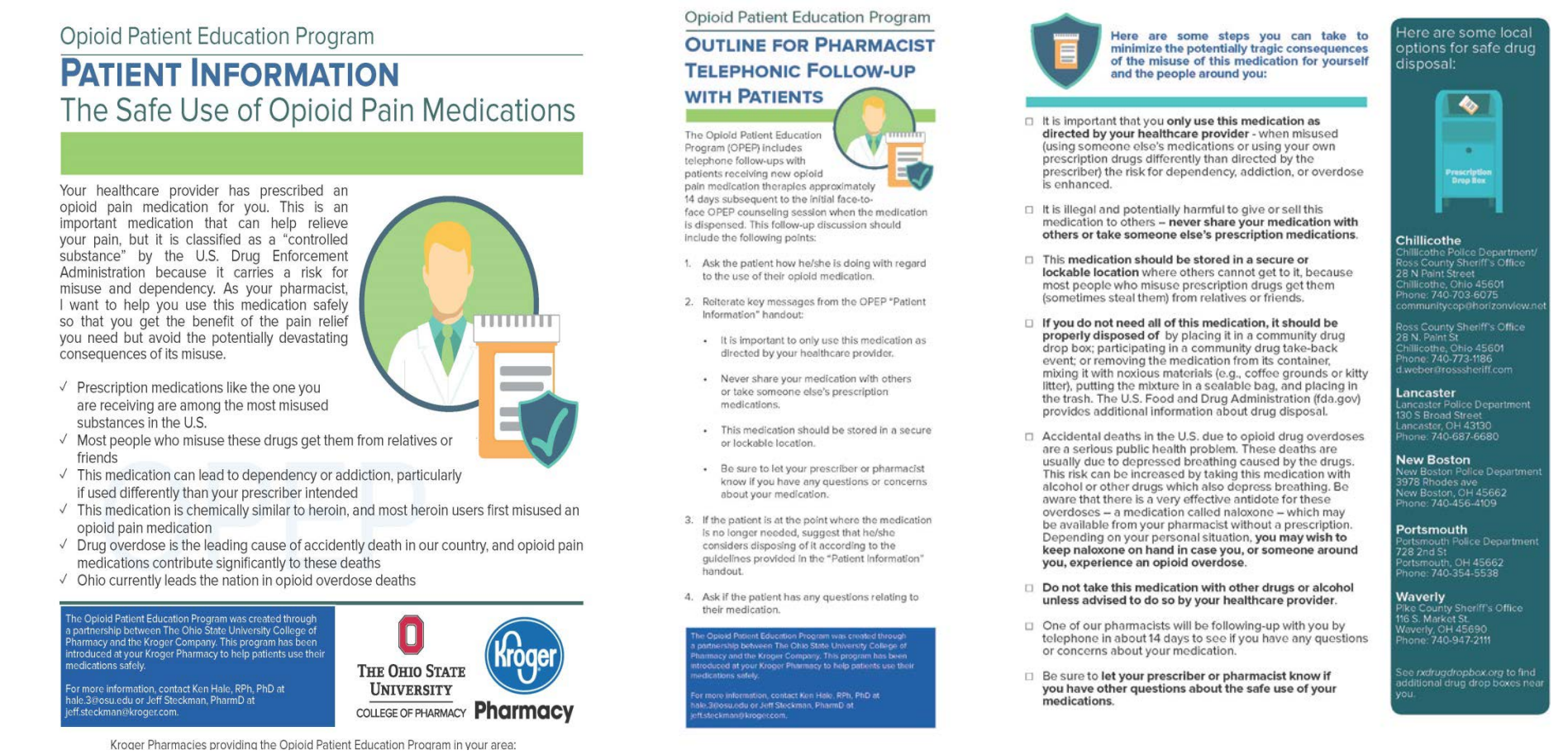


Figure 2: Opioid Patient Education Program Materials

RESULTS

Pharmacists in the eight OPEP pilot sites interacted with 1,030 patients receiving opioid pain medications as of September 26, 2017.

The majority of pharmacists were satisfied with OPEP overall, as well as the various components of the program.

The majority of pharmacists also perceived that patients were satisfied with the counseling and materials received through OPEP.

Overall, pharmacists agreed that OPEP contributed to positive medication use habits among patients and makes a difference in medication misuse.

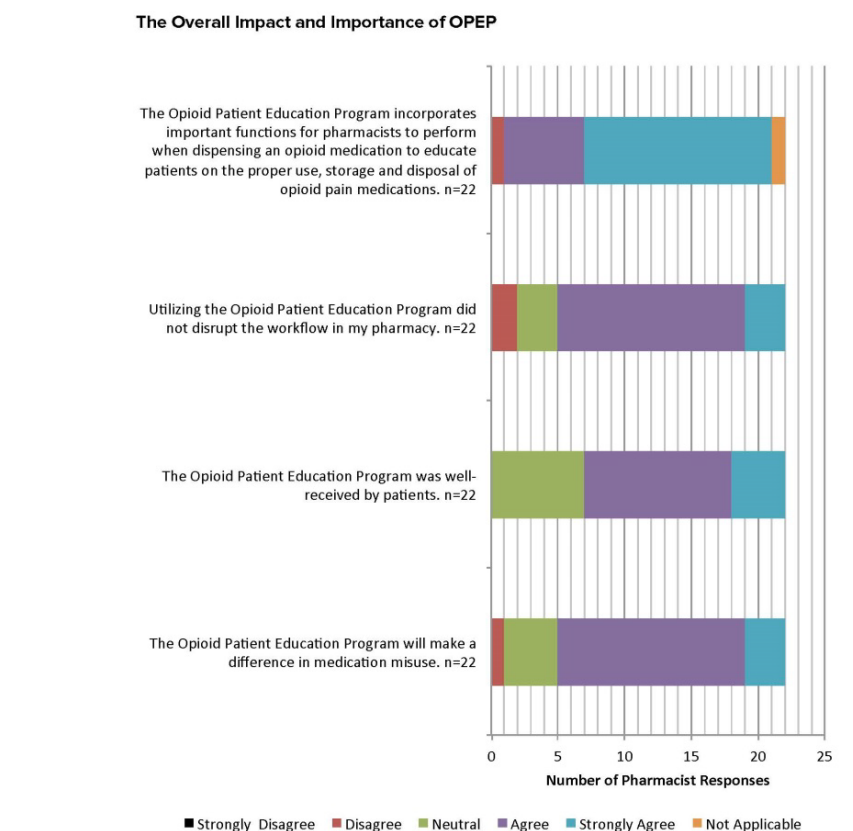


Figure 3: Selected Post-Survey Results

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Results from this project will determine whether OPEP is rolled out on a larger scale to additional pharmacies.

Focus group discussions will be used to inform how to improve and modify the program for future use.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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2. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Diversion Control. 2015. *National Forensic Laboratory Information System Report: Opiates and Related Drugs Reported in NFLIS, 2009-2014*. Springfield, VA: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

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